AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 15 and 18, to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of high-temperature denitration characterized in that NOx in an exhaust gas is reduced at 450° to 800°C using ammonia as a reducing agent in the presence of a ~~high-temperature denitration~~ catalyst which comprises zirconium oxide and SO_3 or SO_4^{2-}[,] and has solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower ~~and is used in a high-temperature region at a reaction temperature of 450° to 800~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of high-temperature denitration characterized in that NOx in an exhaust gas is reduced at 450° to 800°C using ammonia as a reducing agent in the presence of a ~~high-temperature denitration~~ catalyst wherein at least one of tungsten oxide, molybdenum oxide and boron oxide is supported on a carrier comprising zirconium oxide and SO_3 or SO_4^{2-} and having solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower ~~and which is used in a high-temperature region at a reaction temperature of 450° to 800~~□.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of high-temperature denitration characterized in that NOx in an exhaust gas is reduced at 450° to 800°C using ammonia as a reducing agent in the presence of a ~~process for preparing the high-temperature denitration~~ catalyst obtained by a process wherein ~~as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that~~ an aqueous solution of a nitrate or a chloride of zirconium is basified to form a zirconium hydroxide precipitate, then the precipitate is dried, followed by supporting a sulfuric radical on the precipitate, and the precipitate is calcined.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A high-temperature denitration catalyst which comprises zirconium oxide and SO_3 or SO_4^{2-}, has solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower and is used in a high-temperature region at a reaction temperature of 450° to 800°C, or wherein at least one of tungsten oxide, molybdenum oxide and boron oxide is supported on a carrier comprising zirconium oxide and SO_3 or SO_4^{2-} and having solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower and which is used in a high-temperature region at a reaction temperature of 450° to 800°C ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~, characterized in that the catalyst ~~it~~ is dispersed and retained among fibers of ceramic paper.

6. (Original) A process for preparing the high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the ceramic paper is impregnated with a dilute sulfuric acid slurry containing 10 to 35% by weight of the catalyst, optionally dried, and then calcined.

7. (Currently Amended) A high-temperature denitration catalyst which comprises zirconium oxide and SO_3 or SO_4^{2-}, has solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower and is used in a high-temperature region at a reaction temperature of 450° to 800°C, or wherein at least one of tungsten oxide, molybdenum oxide and boron oxide is supported on a carrier comprising zirconium oxide and SO_3 or SO_4^{2-} and having solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower and which is used in a high-temperature region at a reaction temperature of 450° to 800°C ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~, characterized in that ~~it~~ the catalyst is dispersed and retained among fibers of a honeycomb structure obtained by superimposing flat ceramic paper and corrugated plate-like ceramic paper alternatively.

8. (Original) A process for preparing the high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the honeycomb structure obtained by superimposing the flat ceramic paper and the corrugated plate-like ceramic paper alternatively is impregnated with a dilute sulfuric acid slurry containing 10 to 35% by weight of the catalyst, optionally dried, and then calcined.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in claim 6 or 8, characterized in that a silica colloid solution having a solid concentration of 10 to 40% by weight is added to the slurry in a volume ratio of 0.05 to 1.0.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A high-temperature denitration catalyst for selective catalytic reduction of a nitrogen oxide in an exhaust gas ~~characterized by~~ comprising a composite oxide composed of titanium oxide and at least one of tungsten oxide, molybdenum oxide and boron oxide and having solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower, characterized in that a binder is added to the catalyst and the obtained mixture is formed into a particle.

12. (Original) A high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that it is obtained by impregnating dry titanium oxide with a solution containing at least one of tungsten, molybdenum and boron, then drying the titanium oxide and calcinating it under an oxygen atmosphere at temperatures of 500° to 800□.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 or 12, characterized in that the titanium oxide is amorphous titanium oxide.

15. (Currently Amended) A high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 or 12, characterized in that it is dispersed and retained among fibers of a ceramic fiber preform.

16. (Original) A process for preparing a plate type high-temperature denitration catalyst characterized in that titanium oxide is dispersed and retained among fibers of a ceramic fiber preform, the titanium oxide is dried and impregnated with a solution containing at least one element of tungsten, molybdenum and boron, and then the preform is dried and calcined under an oxygen atmosphere at a temperature of 500° to 800□ to obtain the plate type high-temperature denitration catalyst comprising a composite of the above-mentioned metals and having solid acid strength (Ho) of -11.93 or lower.

17. (Previously Presented) A high-temperature denitration catalyst as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the ceramic fiber preform is a honeycomb structure wherein a corrugated plate-like folded molded product and a flat molded product are superimposed alternately.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of denitration in a high-temperature region characterized in that a reducing agent is injected into an exhaust gas, and the exhaust gas is contacted with the catalyst as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 at a reaction temperature of 400° to 700□ to reduce and remove a nitrogen oxide in the exhaust gas.